



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

14 FEBRUARY 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Santa Cruz – Federal Agents Arrest MS-13 Gang Members

(U) The US Department of Homeland Security led a pre-dawn operation across Santa Cruz County and Daly City yesterday, arresting 10 members of the Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, gang. The effort, in partnership with local law enforcement, was part of a five-year investigation into the street gang in the area, according to Santa Cruz Deputy Police Chief Dan Flippo. The suspected criminals, members of MS-13, are men between the ages of 20 and 40, he said.

SOURCE: 13 February 2017, [Santa Cruz Sentinel](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Alaska – Alleged Airport Shooter Lied About Charges on Job Form

(U) Anchorage – The man accused of killing five people at a Florida airport lied about his criminal record on his application to be a security guard in Alaska, and was fired after only a few months on the job because of the state of his mental health. The new information is contained in the security guard application Esteban Santiago filed last summer for a license from the state of Alaska so he could work at Signal 88 Security in Anchorage. Santiago is charged in the fatal shooting at the Fort Lauderdale airport on Jan. 6. He's accused of flying overnight from Anchorage to Florida. After arriving, he retrieved his gun from checked baggage, went into a bathroom and came out shooting, killing five people and wounding another six. A trial date is set for 2 October in Miami.

SOURCE: 14 February 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) District of Columbia – U.S. Charges 12 over Puerto Rico Cocaine Smuggling Operation

(U) Washington – Twelve people, including six current and former Transportation Security Administration agents in Puerto Rico, have been charged with smuggling some 20 tons of cocaine into the continental United States between 1998 and 2016, the US Justice Department said yesterday. The TSA agents were paid to ensure suitcases each containing 18 to 27 lbs. of cocaine were able to pass through X-ray machines at Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport, according to a superseding indictment handed down on Feb. 8 by a grand jury in Puerto Rico, the department said in a statement.

SOURCE: 13 February 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Georgia – Researchers Simulate Ransomware Attack on Industrial Controls

(U) Atlanta – Cybersecurity researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology have developed a new form of ransomware that can take over control of a simulated water treatment plant. After gaining access, they were able to command programmable logic controllers (PLCs) to shut valves, increase the amount of chlorine added to water, and display false readings. The simulated attack was designed to highlight vulnerabilities in the control systems used to operate industrial facilities such as manufacturing plants, water and wastewater treatment facilities, and building management systems for controlling escalators, elevators and HVAC systems.

SOURCE: 13 February 2017, [Science Daily](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Turkey – Turkey Arrests Nightclub Attack Planner

(U) Ankara – Turkish authorities have arrested a Frenchman suspected of helping plan a New Year's Day shooting in an Istanbul nightclub which killed 39 people, the state-run Anadolu news agency said on today. The man, a 22-year-old French citizen of Turkish descent, was caught in Istanbul, Anadolu said. A police official said he had been detained weeks ago and formally charged last week. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) claimed the nightclub attack and said it was revenge for Turkish intervention in Syria. A court on Saturday remanded in custody Uzbek national Abdulgadir Masharipov, who is accused of carrying out the shooting.

SOURCE: 14 February 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) United Kingdom – 65 Percent of Large Companies Suffered Cyberattacks

(U) London – Britain's treasury chief has warned that cyberattacks are increasing in severity and sophistication as authorities open a new center devoted to thwarting such threats. Philip Hammond has urged businesses to "sharpen" their approach as the attacks intensify. The new center's technical director, Ian Levy, says the government will act as "a guinea pig for all the measures we want to see done by industry at national scale." The government underpinned the new facility with a 1.9 billion pound (\$2.3 billion) cash injection.

SOURCE: 14 February 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) United Kingdom – Report Says ISIL Extremists Using Mainstream Media

(U) London – A report based on a translated ISIL document says the extremists consider mainstream media to be an effective weapon for spreading its message. The International Center for the Study of Radicalization and Political Violence in London said yesterday that ISIL has a multi-pronged media strategy to gain support that includes launching media "projectiles." The report by senior researcher Charlie Winter is based on a 55-page document published by Islamic State last year. It finds effective use of mainstream media, "if leveraged correctly," can have more "far-reaching" power than the most powerful bombs.

SOURCE: 14 February 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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